UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,469	07/15/2003	Timothy S. Beatty	42P15523	8633

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EXAMINER
NGUYEN, DANG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2824	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Office Action Summary	10/620,469	BEATTY ET AL.	
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Dang T. Nguyen	2824	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>24 January 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1, 2, 4 – 12, 16 – 18 and 20</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) <u>1,2,4-12 and 20</u> is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>16-18</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>15 July 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☒ Other: <u>Search history</u>.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This office action is in response to communication filed on 1/24/06. Claims 3 and

19 are canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4 – 12, 16 – 18 and 20 are

pending on this application. Claims 1 and 16 are independent claims.

2.   Per Applicant's Amendment filed on 10/26/04, claims 13-15 explicitly stated as

CANCELLED (see 10/26/04 "claims" in EDAN). Applicant can not bring back

"CANCELLED CLAIMS" as "WITHDRAWN" or "PREVIOUS WITHDRAWN".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 16 - 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Ooishi U.S. patent No. 6,175,532 B1 - filed: May 21, 1999.

Regarding independent claim 16, (Fig. 64 [1602]) of Ooishi discloses method

implemented within a memory driver (Fig. 54 [1602]) comprising: receiving at least a

subset (Fig. 64 [A1 - A8]) of an address for promotion to a memory (Fig. 54 [1600]), and

selectively [1616] replacing at least the subset (output of [1614]) of the received address

[A1 – A8] with a process identifier (Fig. 64 [1610]) if it is determined (Col. 65 lines 37 –

39) that the subset (A1 – A8) of the received addresses is composed of zeroes (Col. 58

lines 45 - 50).

Regarding dependent claim 17, Fig. 55C of Ooishi further comprising:

analyzing the received subset [A3, A4] of the address [A1, A2, A3, A4] to determine

whether the subset of composed of zeroes (first row of A3, A4 in Fig. 55C) and, if so, to

provide an indication (Fig. 64 (Coincidence) to a multiplexing element (Fig. 64 [1616]) to

replace the received subset of the address with the process identifier (Fig. 64 (1610

[Coincidence])).

Regarding dependent claim 18, Ooishi discloses a method implemented within a

memory driver (Fig. 64) according to claim 17, further comprising: asserting either the

received address [1614], or a modified version [1612] thereof based, at least in part, on

whether the received subset of the address is composed of zeroes (Col. 58 lines 32 - 34).

Allowable Subject Matter

4.   Claims 1, 2, 4 - 12, and 20 are allowed.

With respect to claim 1, in addition to other elements in the respective claim,

the prior art fails to teach or suggest "a pulse generator element, to receive a clock

signal and produce at least two reference signals, overlapping yet offset from one

another in time; and one or more driver elements, coupled to the multiplexing element

and responsive to the pulse generator element, to receive content promoted from the

multiplexing element during a precharge phase the reference signals, and to assert the

content received from the multiplexer to the memory during a discharge phase of the

reference signals".

Dependent claims 2, 4 – 12 and 20 are allowed based on independent claim 1 above.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 1/24/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Under remarks, applicant argued "Ooishi does not discloses replacing some portion of received address with a process identifier" Therefore, Ooishi does not anticipated claims 16 – 19. Examiner respectfully disagrees from the following:

Fig. 64 of Ooishi discloses a process for output an internal address for memory array (Fig. 54 [1600]); wherein the process (Fig. 4[1602]) is replacing the received address [A1-A8] with the process identifier (1610 [Coincidence]). On Col. 65 lines 37 – 50, Ooishi clearly teach the process identifier [1610] generates the detection signals [Coincidence, Non-Coincidence] according to the comparison of [1610], and selective replacing the output address signal of [1614] with the output address signal of [1612] when the process identifier [1610] generating the Coincidence detecting signal.

Per explained above, reference "Ooishi" from previous office action is applying to the following rejections.

Prior art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nguyen et al.   Patent No. US 5,564,052   Date of Patent: Oct. 8, 1996

Hoang   Pub. No. US 2004/0111746 A1   Pub. Date: Jun. 10, 2004

Contact Information

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Dang Nguyen, who can be reached by telephone at (571) 272-1955. Normal contact times are M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

Upon an unsuccessful attempt to contact the examiner, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms, may be reached at (571) 272-1869.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900. The faxed phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the Status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or EBC@uspto.gov.

Dang Nguyen 3/8/2006

Tuan T. Nguyen
3/16/06